



BUILDING INTEROPERABILITY: A PROGRESS REPORT

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Produced by Interoperability Montana

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As the construction season of 2009 ended, the Interoperability Montana Project has made tremendous progress—enough to qualify 2009 as the most successful construction and installation year since the organization took its present form in 2005.

One of the most dramatic examples of progress came on August 22, when the U.S. Air Force delivered construction materials to the summit of Baldy Mountain near Highwood (*photo at left*) in the Central Montana Consortium. Television and newspaper reporters and photographers captured the delivery.

At the end of 2009, Interoperability Montana has accomplished the following milestones:

- Acceptance of the entire Motorola system on the Northern Tier Project from Lincoln County to Sheridan County.
- Acceptance of towers and equipment linking the Northern Tier with the Lewis & Clark County system.
- Acceptance of the Northern Tier's western portion from MacDonald Pass through Powell, Granite, Missoula, Lake, Flathead and Lincoln Counties.
- Completion of the U.S. Air Force radio project in Pondera, Teton, Cascade, and Fergus Counties (Central MT Consortium) and Wheatland County (Big Sky 11.)
- Completion of the Bull Mountain site and new tower near Whitehall, which permitted the current Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) microwave system to be upgraded so that microwave hops from Lewis & Clark County through the I-15/90 Corridor and South Central Montana Consortia to Gallatin County could be stabilized.
- Completion of concrete pours for tower and shelter foundations at most sites in Beaverhead and Madison Counties.
- Late season tower construction took place at the Antelope site in Beaverhead County (*photo at right*), the Greycliff site in Sweet Grass County, and the Greeno and Coburn sites in Yellowstone County.
- Completion of NEPA environmental reviews on all “backbone loop” sites contained in 2007 PSIC grant. (Helena-Butte-Bozeman-Billings-Roundup)
- Agreements to install a second “master controller” near Glendive that will control the system in eastern Montana, thus relieving pressure on the existing master control unit in Helena.



In 2010, IM plans to complete the “backbone loop” that will connect all eight of the geography-based consortia. The final sites needed to complete the loop will be constructed in eastern Montana, roughly along the Interstate 94 corridor from Yellowstone County to Glendive, then north through Richland County to Culbertson.

In addition, new equipment funded by the 2009 legislature will provide additional radio coverage to areas in Garfield, Custer, Dawson, Richland and Powder River Counties in 2010. This will include infrastructure improvements at the Brown Divide site.

The combination of IM's work in 2009, 2010 and 2011 (through the end of Montana's fiscal biennium) will lead to better public service radio coverage in many areas of Montana, improved communication capability and, ultimately, a higher level of safety for both responders and the general public.

On the following pages, IM presents a spreadsheet that illustrates major milestones for each site in its build-out plan.

CONSORTIUM & SITE NAMES	DOCUMENTS COMPLETE	GROUND BROKEN	CONCRETE POURED	TOWER BUILT	MICROWAVE INSTALLED	TRUNKING INSTALLED	WORK COMPLETE	SITE TO BE ACCEPTED
Big Sky 11 (Representing Big Horn, Carbon, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Petroleum, Rosebud, Stillwater, Treasure, Wheatland and Yellowstone Counties as well as Crow and Northern Cheyenne Tribal Nations and the City of Billings.)								
Coburn	X	X	X	X				2010
Decker Relay								
Dry Head	X							
Dunn Mtn./ Ma Ranch	X							2012
Greeno	X							
Hathaway								2010
Hysham								2010
Hysham-County								2010
Little Wolf								
N. Forsyth	X	X	X	X				2010
Palisades	X				X			
Pompey's Pillar	X	X	X	X				2010
Pyramid Butte								
Radio Hill								
Roundup Airport								
Ryegate								
Shane Ridge					X			2010
Shore								2010
Sumatra								
Swords								2010
Wall Creek								
Wolf Mountain								
Central MT (CMICC) - (Represents Cascade, Chouteau, Fergus, Judith Basin, Pondera and Teton Counties as well as the Chippewa Cree Tribe [Rocky Boy's].)								
Alaska Bench								
Belgian Hill	X	X	X	X	X			2009
Broken Pick	X	X	X	X	X		X	2009
Centennial/Big John								
Cooney	X	X	X	X	X			2009
Flying J	X	X	X	X	X	X		2009
Garneill	X	X	X	X				2009
Highwood Baldy	X	X	X	X	X			2009
Judith Peak	X	X	X	X	X			
Pacific Steel	X	X	X	X	X	X		2009
S. Moccasin	X	X	X	X	X			2009
Sullivan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2009
Teton	X	X	X	X	X			2009
Winnett								

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Eastern Tier Interoperability Consortium (ETIC) - (Includes Carter, Custer, Dawson, Garfield, McCone, Powder River, Richland and Wibaux Counties.)								
Alzada								
Antelope Butte								2010
Belle Prairie	X							2010
Brown Divide								
Circle								
Cohagen								
Ekalaka								
Fallon	X	X	X	X				2010
Fox Creek	X	X	X	X				2010
Garfield Horth								
Home Creek								
Jordan								
Makoshika	X	X	X	X				2010
Needmore								
Pine Grove								
Powderville								
Richey								
Richland Law & Justice Center	X	X	X	X				2009
Sand Creek								
West Butte								
Wright								
I-15/90 Corridor (Represents Anaconda-Deer Lodge, Beaverhead, Butte-Silver Bow and Granite Counties)								
Anaconda Fire Hall								
Anaconda LEC								
Antelope Peak	X	X	X	X				2010
Beaverhead EOC	X	X	X	X				2010
Butler Creek								
Butte Silver-Bow EOC	X	X	X	X				2010
Ellis Peak	X	X	X					
Fleecer	X	X	X	X				2010
Granite 9-1-1	X							
Grassy-Deer Lodge								
KONA	X	X	X	X				2010
Lost Creek	X	X	X		X			2010
Mauer	X	X	X					2010
Red Mountain	X	X	X	X				2010
Rumsey Mountain	X							
Sawtell-FAA	X	X						2010

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Northern Tier (Represents Blaine, Daniels, Flathead, Glacier, Hill, Liberty, Lincoln, Phillips, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Toole and Valley Counties and the Blackfeet, Confederated Salish and Kootenai, Fort Belknap and Fort Peck Indian Nations)								
Antoine Butte	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2010
Big Mountain	X	X	X	X	X	X		2009
Blacktail	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2010
Blue Mountain	X						☑	2009
Culbertson	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2009
Deadman	X	X	X	X	X		X	2009
Desert								
Divide Mountain	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2010
Flaxville	X	X	X	X			X	2009
Gideon	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2009
Hill County Sheriff	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2009
Hinsdale	X	X	X	X			X	2009
Jette	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2009
Kalispell WT	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2009
King Mountain	X						☑	2009
Mount Royal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2009
Opheim	X							
Peerless								
Pinkham	X						☑	2010
Plentywood	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2009
Saco	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2009
Santa Rita	X	X	X	X	X		X	2009
Scobey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2009
Scout Hill	X	X	X	X			X	2009
WAPA	X	X	X	X	X		X	2009
Windy Hill	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2009
South Central (SCMICC) - (Consists of Gallatin, Madison, Meagher, Sweet Grass and Park Counties)								
Bozeman 9-1-1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2009
Bozmn. Law & Justice	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2009
Bridger Ridge					X		X	2009
Dome Mtn.								2010
Duck Creek								2010
Gallatin EOC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2010
Grassy Mtn.-Meagher	X							2010
Greycliff	X	X	X	X				2010
High Flat	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2010
Kenyon Water Tank	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2010
Lone Mountain								
Melville								
Myer's Flat	X	X	X	X			X	2009
Nixon	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2010
Porphyry	X							
Sweet Grass EOC	X							2010

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Sierra	X	X	X					2010
Timberline	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2010
VC Pass	X	X	X	X				2010
Wilsall								2010
W. Yellowstone Airport								
Tri-County (TIC) (Represents Broadwater, Jefferson and Powell Counties and the Montana Department of Corrections)								
Boulder Hill	X							
Bull Mountain	X	X	X	X	X	X		2010
Cominco*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2009
Hedges	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓
Helena Law Enf.Ctr.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓
Hogback	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓
Jefferson Co. SO/9-1-1								
Limestone Hill	X	X	X					2010
MacDonald Pass	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓
MDOT	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓
South Bench/Prison Hill								
Sunset	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓
Wirth	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓
XL Heights	X							2010
Western Interoperability Communications Consortium (WICC) – (Includes Lake, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli and Sanders Counties)								
Blanchard								
Clark's Peak								
Downing Mountain								
Ellis Mountain	X	X	X	X				
Green Mountain								
Lookout Pass								
Miller Peak*	X	X	X	X	X			2009
Missoula								
Pat's Knob*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2009
Pierce								
Point 118								
Point 6								
Steep Creek								
Sula Peak								
Thompson Peak								
Western Repeater 1								
Western Repeater 2								

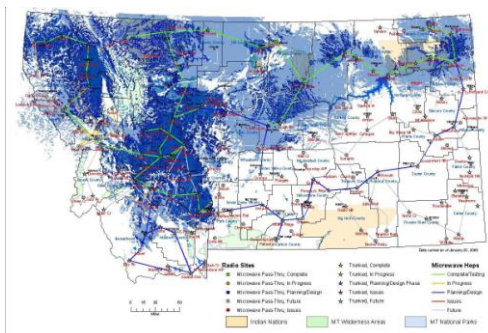
✓ = Site accepted prior to 2009

☑ = lease in effect

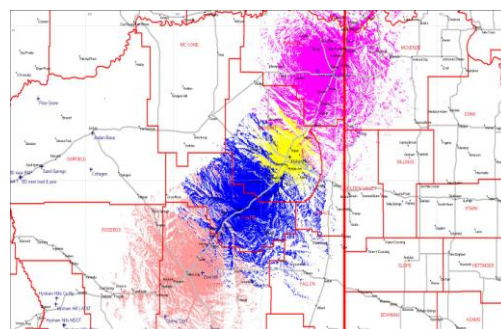
* Built to connect the Lewis & Clark Co. system with the Northern Tier

IM Users (by end of 2009)		New Users Expected (by end of 2010)
Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Drug Enforcement Administration Federal Bureau of Investigation Havre Ambulance Havre Fire Dept. Havre Northern Montana Hospital Havre Police Dept. Helena Fire Dept. Helena Police Dept. Helena Public Transportation Helena Public Works Helena's Saint Peter's Hospital (& Ambulance Service) Hill County Search & Rescue Hill County Sheriff's Office Hill County's Nine Rural Fire Districts Hill County's Rudyard Ambulance Service Kalispell Police Dept.	Lewis & Clark County DES Lewis & Clark County EMS Lewis & Clark County Public Works Lewis & Clark County Rural Fire Districts Lewis & Clark County Sheriff Dept. Missouri River Drug Task Force MT Criminal Investigation Dept. MT Dept. of Corrections MT Dept. of Justice MT Dept. of Transportation MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks MT Gambling Control Division MT General Services Admin. MT Highway Patrol MT Legislative Services U.S Marshals Service U.S. Forest Service (Law Enforcement)	Havre Public Works Hill County Beaver Creek Park Hill County Road Dept. Hill County Beaver Creek Park Blackfeet Nation DES Blackfeet Nation Police Dept. Flathead County DES Flathead County Sheriff's Dept. Salish & Kootenai DES Salish & Kootenai Police Plus, additional users in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Sky 11 Consortium • Central Montana Consortium • Eastern Tier Consortium • I-15/90 Corridor Consortium • Northern Tier Consortium • South Central MT Consortium

ANTICIPATED COVERAGE WITH I.M. SYSTEM (95% Mobile Coverage with 40-Watt Radio)



**IM System Coverage
(by end of 2009)**



**Additional Eastern Tier Coverage
(by end of 2010)**